



**For Immediate Release
Monday, April 3, 2006**

Mayor's Council on Disability Takes Shape

Chattanooga, TN- Mayor Ron Littlefield joins Nashville, Knoxville, and Memphis in the creation of a Mayor's Council on Disability (MCD). Until now, Chattanooga was the only major city in the state without such a council. Mayor Ron Littlefield says this committee is a natural extension of Go!Fest, "Last year we created a festival called Go!Fest to celebrate everyone's abilities. Now the Mayor's Council on Disability takes that concept one step further by expanding efforts for disabled people to all year," said Mayor Ron Littlefield.

The Mayor's Council on Disability (MCD) is a group of Chattanoogaans making recommendations to the Mayor and City Council to enhance the quality of life for all Chattanoogaans with disabilities and their families. MCD is composed of 15 members including 5 officers selected by the Mayor.

MCD's overall mission is to promote policies, programs, practices, and procedures that give equal opportunity for all individuals with disabilities, regardless of the nature or severity of the disability; and to empower individuals with disabilities to achieve economic self-sufficiency, independent living, and inclusion and integration into all aspects of society.

MCD is currently working on a series of sensitivity seminars for City codes inspectors. Members of the council will inform public works employees about the Americans with Disabilities Act and how it impacts disabled Chattanoogaans.

Please join Mayor Ron Littlefield, Monday, April 3rd at 10:30 am in the Development Resource Center at 1250 Market Street for a kick-off celebration with the Mayor and the members of the MCD.

Speakers include officers and members of the council. The TN Technology Access Center will present for the media accommodations that enable persons to work, travel, and participate in programs and activities and live independently in the community.

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